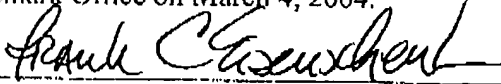


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on March 4, 2004.



Frank C. Eisenschenk, Ph.D., Patent Attorney

PETITION FOR WITHDRAWAL OF
ABANDONMENT

Examining Group 1646

Patent Application

Docket No. G-070US02REG

Serial No. 09/668,558

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner : Eileen B. O'Hara
Art Unit : 1646
Applicants : Frances Yen-Potin, Mary Ruth Erickson, Joachim Fruchis, Bernard Bihain
Serial No. : 09/668,558
Filed : September 22, 2000
Conf. No. : 5403
For : Methods of Screening for Compounds that Modulate the LSR-Leptin Interaction and Their Use in the Prevention and Treatment of Obesity-Related Diseases

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

PETITION FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ABANDONMENT

Sir:

It is respectfully requested that any holding of abandonment of the above-identified patent application be withdrawn and that the subject application be returned to pending status before the Patent Office.

After a review of the U.S. Patent Office Patent Application Information Retrieval System (PAIR) on this same date regarding the subject application, Applicants' undersigned representative became aware of the "Notice of Abandonment for Failure to Respond to Office Action" which was mailed on October 29, 2002. A Notice of Abandonment has not been received for the subject application by Applicants' undersigned representative and a Notice of Abandonment has not been located in the case folder. However, Applicants respectfully assert that a response to the Restriction Requirement dated March 13, 2002 in the form of a "Response to Restriction Requirement," along

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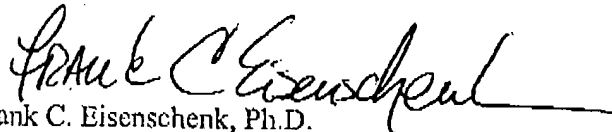
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Docket No. G-070US02REG
Serial No. 09/668,558

with a Transmittal Form, Fee Transmittal for FY 2002, and Assignment Recordation Form Cover Sheet, was mailed to the Patent Office on April 12, 2002 by previous counsel. A copy of Applicants' Response to Restriction Requirement, and a copy of the return postcard evidencing receipt of the Response by the Patent Office on April 23, 2002, are attached to this Petition. Thus, Applicants "reply" to the Restriction Requirement dated March 13, 2002 has been received by the Patent Office.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the abandonment of the subject application be withdrawn and that the application be returned to prosecution. No fees are believed to be due in connection with this Request in view of Applicants' previously filed response.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank C. Eisenschenk, Ph.D.

Patent Attorney

Registration No. 45,332

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Address: 2421 N.W. 41st Street, Suite A-1
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FCE/sl

Attachments: Copy of Response to Restriction Requirement; copy of return postcard.